Paparella, Stephanie

From:  Joey Coleman [joey@joeycoleman.ca]  
Sent:  September 2, 2013 11:10 PM  
To:  Paparella, Stephanie; Pearson, Maria; Powers, Russ; Morelli, Bernie; Johnson, Brenda; Clark, Brad  
Cc:  Caterini, Rose; Murray, Chris; Kirkopoulos, Michael; McHattie, Brian; Farr, Jason  
Subject: Delegation Request - AF&A - September 9, 2013 meeting - Topic: Open Data

Good evening members of AF&A,

I'm requesting to make a delegation to this standing committee on September 9, 2013 in regards to open data implementation by the City now that Council has approved an Open Data Policy.

I make my request for the September 9, 2013 meeting as the committee may not meet again until October 8, 2013.

In the past 15 minutes, I've been actively communicating with many of my fellow residents on Twitter as they attempt to get City information for back to school - data which should be open and available but is not.

There are two issues with this lack of information. The first is that it is not available in any format; I've never understood why City Hall treats so much information as "classified".

The second issue is that data is not available in open formats to enable the public to effectively utilize the information.

Back to school brings requests for school crossing guard location information, HSR school extra service information (requests for which are denied by staff), information about safe crossing locations, and parking bylaw restrictions in school areas.

The information that is available is buried in PDF reports to various committees or not yet available in the case of crossing guard information; the updated information will be reported to standing committee first.

All this information can be made available in open formats; inviting developers to create the 'perfect' back to school application to assist families to be ready for that first day of school.

At present, the City of Hamilton's "open data" site (http://www.hamilton.ca/ProiectsInitiatives/OpenData/) provides only one data set: HSR schedules in GTFS format - which is fairly useless.

The City of Hamilton, after three years of requests, continues to provide no other open data.

My presentation shall focus upon:

- providing a list of datasets of interest to the public
- providing suggestions on how to engage with the community for a successful open data pilot
- request that AF&A make open data a budget consideration for 2014 to providing the staffing levels and skills required for a successful pilot.

I hope the current open data leadership in the City Manager's Office can be in attendance to respond to the presentation enabling AF&A committee to provide further direction to staff to begin implementation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joey Coleman  
Citizen Ward 2 (Beasley)

03/09/2013